Page 2 Ronny Knepple et al. April 12, 2002

Please replace claim 5 with the following amended claim 5:

5. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 10, characterized in that the identification is applied in the form of a bar code.

Please replace claim 6 with the following amended claim 6:

6. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that [the] said bar code is applied annularly onto cylindrical portion of the sample container in a manner that [it] said bar code is readable along the cylindrical axis.

Please replace claim 7 with the following amended claim 7:

7. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 10, characterized in that the identification is applied along with numerals and/or letters.

Please replace claim 8 with the following amended claim 8:

8. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in claim [1] 10, characterized in that the identification is applied in the form of numerals and/or letters.

Please replace claim 9 with the following amended claim 9:

9. (Amended) A method as claim in [one of] claim[s 1 to [8] 10, characterized in that symbols are also applied by the identification.

Please Add the Following New Claims:

10. A method for labeling sample containers, comprising the steps of:

providing a container for holding a sample to be analyzed;
elevating a temperature of the container above a sample analysis temperature;
and

3,98